ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# SIPSEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

## Spring Hill Church,

*From the 2nd to the 4th of October,* 1894.

J. B. FERGUSON, Mod'r. J. F. ASHCRAFT, Clerk.

Next Session to meet with Mt. Hebron Church on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in October, 1895.

# MINUTES

The Sipsey Baptist Association met in her 5th annual session with Spring Hill church, Wednesday and Thursday, October 3rd and 4th, 1894, Tuscaloosa county, Ala., at 11 o'clock a. m. The Introductory Sermon was deliveeed by J. B Ferguson trom John 5th chap., 24th verse, to a large and attentive audience. At the close of the discourse recess of one hour was given for refreshments, which was on the ground in abundance, tor both man and beast.

The delegates re assembled in the house, and the former Moderater being absent Bro. Jas White was appointed Moderator pro tem. After devotional exercises by the Moderator the letters from the varions churches were presented, and brethren A. Guin and A. E. Patterson were appointed reading clerks. Letters were read and delegates enrolled, as follows: (Absentees marked thus*)

Bethabara—W H Loftis. T F Montgomery,* E B Hendrix.*

Corrinth—E Mayfield, W G Comerford,* A M Mills.

Dunn's Creek—G D Mayfield, E Brown, R J Mayfield.

Friendship—J B Ferguson, I L Collins.* R E Hocutt.

Macedona—T L Hutson, B S Kemp, A E Patterson.

Moore's Bridge—D M Montgomery. John Sullivant, D E Windham.

Mt. Hebron—B M Freeman, T Winter, J E Watson.

New Hope—J S Williamson,* J D South, I B Davis.

Sardis—J S White, B E Moore.* N J Kelley.

Chappel Hill—W H Brown, V Davis,* V Blakeney.*

Double Branch—J E Reeves,* F D Gardner, J A Awtrey.

Flat Woods—J H Jordan, C Gallent,* W F Jones.

Mt. Tabor—L S Appling, A B Shelton, J T Sudduth.

Oak Ridge—J M Lindsey, S T Walker, C R Davis.*

Pleasant Ridge—J F Ashcraft, J D Duckworth, J T Blakeney.

Spring Hill—A Guin, P D Sudduth, H Brazeal.

The body then proceeded to elect officers, which resulted in the election of J. B. Ferguson, Moderator; J. F. Ashcraft, Clerk. The body then proceeded to business, as follows:

1, Opened the doors of the Association for the reception of new churches. None.

2 Received correspondents. Revs. G. W, Freeman and G. W. Gravlee from New River.

3 Returned correspondence.

4. Appointed committees, as follows:

Devotion—G D Mayfield, W H Loftis, and the Deacons of Spring Hill Church.

Finance—A Guin, J M Free, J T Blakeney

Documents—E Mayfield. E Brown, R E Hocutt.

Nominations—W H Loftis, F D Gardner, J A Awtrey.

Religious Literature—J A Andrew, J D Duckworth, J S White

Education—A E Patterson, A M Mill, I B Davis, W H Brown

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sabbath Schools—T L Hutson, J T Carter, J M Ashcraft.

Temperance—Rev. J A Andrews, J F Ashcraft, E Mayfield,

Missions—A M Mills, G D Mayfield, W H Loftis.

Superannuated Ministers—A E Patterson, A Guin, R E Hocutt

5. On motion appointed a committee of three to draft an answer to Query from Bethabara Church, to wit: A M Mills, G D Mayfield, Rev. J A Andrews. On motion Rev. J B Ferguson and J S White was added

6. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum.

7. Committee on Devotional Exercises reported that G. W. Freeman, from New River, preach tonight at the church; I. B. Davis to conduct religious exercises tomorrow morning at 8:30, for half an hour.

8. On motion adjourned until 8:30 tomorrow morning. Prayer by brother James White.

SECOND DAY'S WORK.

9. The body met according to adjournment. Devotional exercises by I. B. Davis; prayer by brother J. S. White. The exercises closed, the Association assembled for business.

10 Suspended regular order of business to receive delegates from Oak Ridge Church. Names of delegates enrolled in proper place.

11. Adopted report of Committee on Sunday Schools:

We your Committee on Sunday Schools would report, We have had a Sunday School convention in the 1st District, which was well attended, and from the facts revealed we are encouraged to believe the Sunday School interest has made quite an advance in our Association, and we hope this andvance is permanent; yet there are some churches that have not Sunday School. We think every church in our Association should organize a Sunday School at once, for they always prove a blessing to the Church and community.

Respectfully submitted, J. S. WHITE, Chm'n.

12. Report of Committee on Temperance adopted:

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report that the old philosopher, Aristotle, said, "Temperance is the moderate use of things that are beneficial, and the total abstainance from things that are injurious." With this definition, and the admonition "Do thyself no harm,' and the Divine command to 'Touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean things," it is easy to comprehend the duty of every Christian in respect to the Temperance question. Whatsoever we sow such shall we reap. If we by action, word, or indifference encourage the habit of drunkenness, we may in the same manner encourage all manner of crime and thereby lead souls to endless perdition, for no drunkard hath eternal life abiding in him. Since so few who ever contract that soul and body destroying habit (drunkenness) ever reform, we have just cause to conclude that when a youth is led into this habit he is well on the way to a life of crime and shame, and a drunkard's grave. Since Christ has said to his people "Ye are the light of the world," it is very reasonable to suppose that others will follow our examples. Then on whom will the habits of the next generation rest more than on their teachers? The present generation seeing that these responsibilities are upon us, let us see that we set no unholy examples before others, but in every way that is legal and honorable strive to deliver our country from that curse which of all evils that now afflicts our people is the greatest—the manufacture, selling and consuming of intoxicating drinks. Respectfully submitted,

J. B. Ferguson, Chm'n.

13. Adjourned to hear Missionary sermon by Rev. J. A. Andrews. Text—Matt. 28th, 19 and 20: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Ghost; teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen!" The large audience gave earnest attention to the discourse, and we are encouraged to believe that much good will result therefrom. Rev. J. M. Chism followed, after which prayer was offered by Rev. J. B. Ferguson. A collection was then taken up, amounting to $4.35 cash. Adjourned for dinner, and the people gathered around a table, well laden with eatables prepared by the good sisters and friends of Spring Hill Church, and such earnest work has rarely been excelled.

14. Committee on Devotion reported—

Rev. R. J. Mayfield to preach at 2 p m., and Rev. G. W. Gravlee to preach at night, Rev. J. B. Ferguson to follow.

G. D. Mayfield, Chm'n.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

15. At 2 p. m. the Association was called to order in the school house. Prayer by Rev. G. W. Gravlee.

Ordained Ministers—R. J. Mayfield, J. S. Shirley, F. E. Mills, J. A. Andrews, J. S. White, I. L. Collins, J. B. Ferguson, J. M. Chism.

Licensed Ministers—I. B. Davis.

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## CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, on presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

3. This Association shall be known as the Sipsey Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to engage in missionary work in all its bearings, yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

4. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulties, and if the union be broken between two or more churches to enquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; provided the aggrieved has followed the instructions laid down in the 18th chapter of Matthew; but if the breach can not be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may consider unsound in doctrine or immoral in practice, until the same can be reconciled.

5. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the name of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded, and deceased, since the last session.

6 Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent at any annual session, shall be required to give a reason for her failure, at the next session.

7. Churches may be admitted into this Association who petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination, if found orderly and orthodox, may be received, at the discretion of the Association when the Moderator shall give the right hand of fellowship to said delegates.

8. Any church in our union may send queries to the Association, asking advice, when it shall be the duty of the Association to answer the same as she may think best.

9. Voting may be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, except to change or amend the Constitution.

13. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session, when two thirds of the members present are in favor of such amendment.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article I. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by Immersion is the only Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Church, but one who is regularly baptized, called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

## RULES OF DECORUM.

Article. 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call a member to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, address the Moderator, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

5 The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same in naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8 When a motion is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision of the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Mod.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without leave of the Association.

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory by Appointee
2. Read letters and enroll names of delegates.
3. Elect officers.
4. Open door of Association for reception of churches.
5. Receive correspondents.
6. Appoint committees.

8. Call for report of committees, as follows: 1. Sabbath Schools; 2. Temperance; 3. Missions; 4. Executive Committee; 5. District Meetings; 6. Nominations; 7. Sabbath School Conventions; 8. Documents; 9. Religious Literature; 10. Education; 11. Superannuated Ministers; 12. Finance; 13. Treasurer's Report; 14. Appoint Treasurer; 15. Miscellaneous Business.

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NOTE—The Clerk is not responsible for the delay in the printing of these Minutes. The printer alone is to blame for the delay,

PRINTER.

| CHUCHES. | PASTORS. | PASTOR'S P. O. | CLERK. | Baptized . . . | Rec'd by Letter | Restored . . . | Dismisse by L. | Excluded . . . | Died . . . . . | Total . . . . | Sabbath M'tg's | Date of Const'n | Minute Fund | Associa'l Fund |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friendship, | I. L. Collins, | Ridge, | M. B. Ramsey, | 6 | | | | | | 69 | 1 | | 1 25 | 85 |
| New Hope, | J· J. Patterson | Ridge, | R. L. South, | 28 | 11 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 73 | 2 | | 1 00 | 50 |
| Sardis, | M. W. Olive, | New Lexington | N. J. Kelley, | 0 | | | | | | 19 | | | 50 | 50 |
| Mt. Hebron, | S. E. Hodge, | McConnell's, | J. E. Watson, | 3 | | | 3 | | | 29 | 2 | | 75 | 75 |
| Bethabara, | J H M Andres | Sipsy Turnpike | J. J. Wheat, | 9 | | | 4 | | | 60 | 4 | 1843 | 1 40 | 50 |
| Corrinth, | S. E. Hodge, | Sipsy Turnpike | J. A. Mitchell, | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | 4 | | 1 00 | 75 |
| Dunn's Creek. | J. M. Chism, | Fayette, | A. J. Louis, | 5 | | 1 | | | | 131 | 2 | 1834 | 1 00 | 45 |
| Moore's Bridge | J. A. Andrews | Gordo, | D E Windham, | | 4 | | 4 | 1 | 1 | 46 | 3 | | 1 00 | 75 |
| Macedonia, 2nd Dist. | J. J. Patterson | Ridge, | A. E Patterson, | 3 | 4 | | 5 | | | 27 | 3 | | 50 | 1 00 |
| Spring Hill. | J. M. Chism, | Fayette, | A. Guin, | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 69 | 1 | 1828 | 1 00 | 1 00 |
| Oak Ridge, | J M. Chism, | Fayette, | C. R Davis, | | | | | | | 20 | 3 | 1869 | 25 | 75 |
| Chapel Hill. | I. L. Collins, | Ridge, | W. H. Brown, | 12 | | 1 | 9 | 1 | | 71 | 2 | | 50 | 35 |
| Pleasant Ridge, | F. Wilson, | Fayette, | T. F. Asheraft, | 10 | 6 | | 2 | | | 40 | 3 | | 75 | 50 |
| Double Branch | J A Andrews, | Gordo, | J, A. Awtrey, | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 32 | 2 | | 1 00 | 50 |
| Mt. Tabor, | J A Andrews, | Gordo, | J. W. Dollar, | | | | 15 | 2 | 1 | 58 | 4 | | 75 | 75 |
| Flat Woods, | S E Hodge, | Temple, | W. F. Jones, | | 3 | | 3 | | | | 1 | | 40 | 30 |
| Pleasant Grov | J A Andrews, | Gordo | J. W. Brown | 3 | 7 | | | | 1 | 39 | | | 1 00 | 1 20 |
| | | | | 83 | 37 | 7 | 50 | 11 | 6 | 778 | | | 1405 | 1140 |